Sun 1833 to 1918 The Story of The

More About the Men Who Made "The Sun" News Columns Models for the World of Journalism and Examples of Their Work

This is the sixteenth of a series of articles narrating the history of THE SUN, and giving a vital, intimate view of metropolitan life and journalism during more than eighty eventful years. The first article told of the founding of the paper by Benjamin H. Day in September, 1833, and of its rapid rise to success. Succeeding articles told of the paper's continued prosperity and of changes in ownership, including its purchase by Charles A. Dana, Mr. Dana's career, and told of the able men who made THE SUN the best newspaper in America.

By FRANK M. O'BRIEN.

Raiph reported for THE SUN the outrages of the Molly Maguires in the Pennsylvania coal fields. After the murder he was bold enough to follow thirty-five years. their bodies back to their village where

mystery, the relatives of the victim, witnessed the is and the parade, who were ignorant and superstitious. Then, having who were ignorant and superstitious people, suspected Raiph of being the murderer. When he came into their house to see the body they demanded that he should touch it, their belief being that the body would turn over or the wounds reopen if touched by the murderer. There was an implied threat of death for the reporter if he murderer, but Raiph walked out with-

1em?

Ralph was a believer in the sixth sense of journalists, that inexplicable gift by which a man, and particularly a newspaper man, comes to a clairvoyant knowledge that something is exalted hunch. John B. Bogart, city chitor in Ralph's Sun days, had this wrote to his wife while on the assignsense and he called it a "current of news." He thus described its workings to Ralph:

One day I was walking up Broadway when suddenly a current of news came up from a cellar abu enveloped me. I I ran down the steps and as I did so a pistol shot sounded in my ears. One man had shot another and I found my-

While acting as the legislative cor-Ralph was in the habit of walking to one of the local parks to enjoy view across a valley southwest of the city. One day while gazing across sire to go to the mountains in the distance beyond it. The impulse remained with him for two days, and on the third day he read of a news untains on the very day when the current of news had thrilled him.

Ralph reported the Dreyfus courtmartial at Rennes in France. One morning he could not sleep after 5 As he was on his way to court he said to George W. Steevens of the London Daily Mail, who was walking with him: "Wait a moment while I go into

the telegraph office and wire my paper that I expect exciting news to-day. At that hour there was no apparent reason to expect any news out of hours later that Maitre Labori, Dreyfus's counsel, was shot down on his

Young newspaper men who are fortunate enough to be possessed of-or by-the sixth sense must remember however, that it cannot be relied upon to sound the alarm on every occasion Mr. Bogart, who felt that he had a friend in the current of news, kept close track of the assignment book. As a city editor he was unsurpasse for his diligence in following up news stories. One day he assigned Brainerd nalism at Cornell, to report the first reception given by Judge Hilton after the death of the Judge's partner, A.

"And above all," Mr. Bogart wound up, "don't leave the house without asking Judge Hilton whether they've found Stewart's body yet,"

Julian Ralph attributed his success as a journalist chiefly to three things. a liking for his work, the ability to get what he was sent for and good humor lie omitted mention of something which distinguished him and Chamerlin and all other great reportershard work. Ralph himself gives a but complete picture of a day's hard work in his description, in "The Making of a Journalist," of the way in which he reported the inaugura-

another tour of the town, and then be-



written ship news and verse execution of two of the outlaws for for THE SUN for more than

their bodies back to their village where they had lived in order to describe the wake. He was warned to leave the place before sunset on pain of death, and he went, for there was nothing to be gained by staying.

On another assignment, a murder mystery, the relatives of the victim, and the new President, and then witnessed the inauguration ceremonies and the parade.

Work of Wilbur J. Chamberlin.

Wilbur J. Chamberlin's name is not in any book of American biography. never found time to write books, although he wished to do so. He was a SUN man from the day he went on the nothing to do but assure the cable

he worked in newspaper offices and beeral newspapers, including The Sun. He came to be known as "Jersey" Chamberlin to THE SUN men who did not know how much he detested the Wilhur, and the office knew him senerally as "W. J."-an easy way of distinguishing him from other Chamber line and Chamberlains. He lacked Ralph's rather distinguished persons appearance, but his strong personality, his courage, ability and industry over-Like Ralph, he was indefatigable

let nothing stop him in the pursuit of news. Like Henry R. Chamberlain, he had the gift of divining rapidly the convention of July, 1896, when the susnecessary details of any intricate business with which his assignment dealt. If a bank cashier had gone wrong, 'W. J." was the man to describe how the sinner.had manœuvred the theft; to wring from usually unwilling sources the story which appeared in the bank can't write! appear in THE SUN, in terms of human life. The world of finance was more dumb then than it is now, for Wall Street had not learned the wisdom of

and one hatred. The mental peculiarity was a wish to concess his real and all around and about him were age. Unlike most successful men, he wished to be thought older than he was; and he looked older. He was only thirty-five when he died in Carlebad, on his way home from Then he grabbed, and then again, and again they eluded him. Carlsbad, on his way home from China; yet he had packed into that brief life the work of an industrious man of fitter.

boarded THE SUN boat, the Kanapaha, and ran to Port Antonio, Jamaica, with an exclusive story. The women clerks in the telegraph office took his despatch and counted the words three times before they would start sending it. They told Chamberlin the cost, about \$100, which he promptly paid in cash.

Three or four days later he went back to Port Antonio with another im-portant despatch. The cable clerk told him that on his previous visit their count had been one word short.
"That's all right," said Chamberlin and he threw down a shilling to pay

for the one word. "Thank you," said the lady, we can send the message!"

The cable hoodoo pursued Chamber

morning, and, having a cab at hand, mounted the box with the negro driver and travelled about the city from end to end and side to see the people get up and the trains roll in and the soldiers turn out—to see the people get up and the trains roll in and the soldiers turn out—to see the people get up and the trains roll in and the soldiers turn out—to see the people get up and the trains roll in and the soldiers turn out—to see the people get up and the trains roll in and the soldiers turn out—to see the people get up and the trains roll in the cable company that was to forward means to the cable company that was to forward means to the cable company that was to forward means to the cable company that was to forward means to the cable company that was to forward means to the cable company that was to forward means to the cable company that was to forward means to the cable company that was to forward means to the cable company that was to forward means to the cable company that was to forward means to the cable company that was to forward means to the cable c working in Pekin for two weeks he discovered that all his stories were After breakfast, eaten calmly, I made lying in a pigeonhole at Tientain; not

graph blank. But Chamberlin's most As Ralph remarked, that was hard bitter grudge against the cable comwork, but it was nothing when com-pared with the job of reporting a napared with the job of reporting a na-tional convention. "One needs only to see an inauguration." he said. "In Christmas greeting." This was a short a national convention one must know." way of saying, "Please call up Mrs. Chamberlin and tell her that I wish her a merry Christmas." Under the cable company's rules nothing could be sent at the special newspaper rate about to happen—in other words an In library indexes his name is found except what was intended for publicathe manager of the cable company as follows:

not intended for publication. Please ex-plain.

up from a cellar and enveloped me. I sum man from the day he went on the feit the difference in the temperature of the air. I tingled with the electricity or magnetism in the current. It seemed to stop me, to turn me around and to force me to descend some stairs which a boy he went to Jersey City, where other correspondent obtained. He was the first reporter in China who told ment of the Chinese by some of the larly frank in describing the brutality of Count von Waldersee's German sol diers. In November, 1900, he wrote to his wife:

> As you have probably noticed despatches I have not much use for the German soldiers anyhow. They are a are swine.

Chamberlin had a reputation for possessing the ability to write any kind of story, no matter how techni-cal or how delicate. Edward G. Riggs was sitting beside him in the Populis chair cheering, surrendered to cataclysm. Riggs turned to his colleague and said triumphantly: "At last, W. J., there's one story you

But Chamberlin wrote it:

He clutched, but he clutched too latthrice, but down those trousers slipped. Mary E. Lease was only three feet away. Miss Mitchell of Kansas was uttering its own pitiless publicity. away. Miss Mitchell of Kansas was Chamberlin had one idiosyncrasy less than two feet away. Helen Gougar was almost on the spot. Mrs. Julia. Ward Pennington was just two seats off.

brief life the work of an industrious man of fifty.

His single enmity was directed against cable companies, and he had good reason to dislike them. One day nor had there been any sign of a letup during the Spanish-American war he boarded The Sun boat, the Kanapaha, McDowell, clutching the truant strongly, and he was forever w trousers closely about him, attempted to of what might come from the co resume his part in the demonstration

arms shall be required to wear tights."

The chairman did not put the resolu-

lains.

The number of Chamberlains and Chamberlins in the history of American journalism is enough to create ion. THE BUN alone had four at one time. They were Wilbur J. Chamberlin and his almost equally valued brother, Ernest O. Chamberlin. who later became managing editor of the Evening World; Henry Richard-son Chamberlain, and Henry B. Cham-

with reporters like Daniel F. Kellogg, in his visions



Edward G. Riggs, famous as THE SUN'S chief political reporter for years.

ling Yard, Samuel A. Wood, Paul Chamberlin brothers or H. R. Cham-

Sun reporter in May, 1889. He was Occan, the Times and the Record. then 30 years old and had had After 1894, when he left THE Sun, he twelve years' experience in Boston was again with the Chicago Record, and New York. In 1888 he had served and in that paper's service he saw as managing editor of the New York | the Santiago sea fight from his boat-Press. He was particularly valuable the only newspaper boat with the to THE SUN on the stories most easily | American squadron obtained by reporters of wide ac-In 1891 he returned to Boston to be- some of their distinguished contem come managing editor of the Boston poraries not of THE SUN-Joseph Journal, but he was soon back on THE Edgar Chamberlin, who was the

THE SUN'S correspondent there, and editorial writer on the New York Evegreatest distinction. He had a news Engene Tyler Chamberlain, one time Europe and an imagination that com- uel Selwyn Chamberlain, son of the pelled him to concern himself as much famous Ivory Chamberlain of the New with the future of the continent as York Herald, founder of the Matin of with its past and present. The Bal- Paris, and at various times editor of kans and their feuds interested him truant strongly, and he was forever writing New York American. cations between the little states newspaper men, both in London and cloud articles."

"H. R. is always seeing things," world of finance and its remarkable was a common remark, even when the tics. He became, indeed, the best tics. He became, indeed, the best in logic of what he had written was unwar in Europe, said his critics kindly; was imp Besides having general supervision

THE SUN'S European news, over The Sun's European news, to not time. They were Wilbur J. Chamberlain personally reported the Chamberlain and his almost equally related brother, Ernest O. Chamberlain, acandal in France, the Panama stand brother, Ernest O. Chamberlain, and henry Richards of 1908. and the Messina stan crisis of 1908. The was in charge of The Influence of a man like Riggs as his first lieutenant; but Riggs was The Sun's notional convention work, with many short stories and of one book. "Six Thousand Tons of Gold." He Riggs was The Sun's top sawyer at the conventions of 1898, 1900, 1904, 1908. The Sun." It must be to one's paper. It must be condended Julian Ralph to fall the length of a staff that included Julian Ralph to fall the length of a staff that included Julian Ralph to fall the length of a staff that included Julian Ralph to fall the length of a staff that included Julian Ralph to fall the paper first and nothing else the paper f local staff while Wilbur was still en-gaged in humble work in Jersey City. In the impossibility of putting off for-

penders of the sergeant-at-arms of the Edward G. Riggs, William McMurtrie Henry B. Chamberlin's service on convention, who was standing on a Speer, Charles W. Tyler, Robert Ster- The Sun was briefer than that of the berlain. He came to New York from when he reports the actual facts at a Chicago, where he had been a reporter ward meeting. The political correspondent the Herald, the Tribune, the Interest is he who has run the gamut of ward Henry Richardson Chamberiain, who Chicago, where he had been a reporter was born in Peoria, Ill., became a on the Herald, the Tribune, the Inter

Nor must any of these Chamberline and Chamberlains be confused with Cuban correspondent of the New York Evening Post in 1898 and later an was at this post that he won his ning Mail and the Boston Tresscript;

E. G. Riggs, Political Specialist. Edward G. Riggs, who left THE SUN through their tangled relations with on February 1, 1913, to become a railthe Powers. It was the habit of some road executive, had been a Sun reporter and political correspondent New York, to stick their tongues in twenty-eight years. He joined the twenty-eight years. He joined the staff in 1885 as a Wall Street reporter. Though he never lost interest in the world of finance and its remarkable and loyal to his friends. He is joily.

America.

had a closer view of the borer ever the great war which so often rose wheels of the political machines of of newspaper work was a twenty thou-

nors Odell and Flower and the other perhaps to himself. powers of the State brought to him 100 per cent, of the political truths of his time—the 10 per cent, that can be printed and the 90 per cent, that can't. Riggs never became a regular cor-respondent at either Washington or

writer. His intimate acquaintance

with Senators Platt and Hill, Gover-

Albany. He preferred to rove, soing where the news was. In Washington he knew and was welcomed by Presidents Harrison, Cleveland, McKinley, Roosevelt and Taft; by Senators like Hanna and Quay; by Cabinet members like Hay and Knox; by House reportorial work he went to France to day for Yale when the score in the continue certain studies, and while he favor was thirty-two to nothing. leaders like Reed and Bland. He continue certain studies, and while he favor was thirty-two to nothing knew J. P. Morgan and William C. Whitney as well as he knew William post of London correspondent, which J. Bryan and Peffer, the Kansas Popu-Between Presidential elections, when

Sun, with the whole country to some Mr. Dana had an unflagging futerest in politics, and he relied on The in politics, and he relied on Riggs to a word of pugilistic slang but a great bring reports from every field from deal of interest. He saw the human

"Riggs." Dana once remarked to a friend, "is my Phil Sheridan." of Frenchmen who gathered and watched It was through Riggs that Thomas C. Platt, then the Republican master of New York State, sent word to Dana fight. of New York State, sent word to Dana that he would like to have THE SUN'S idea of a financial plank for the Republican State platform of 1896. The the plaintive appeal of Baldock,
plank was written by Mr. Dana and Mitchell's tough second:

He has a shield, a sort of splint, bour plank was written by Mr. Dana and Mitchell's tough second: THE SUN's publisher - afterward owner William M. Laffan. It denounced little kids, a-calling for your at home ever worn, he movement for the free colnage of and a-counting on you for bread! Think their feelings will be if you don't what their feelings will be if you don't the movement for the free coinage of silver and declared in favor of the gold standard. The State convention. held in March, adopted Dana's plank, and the national convention in June accepted the same ideas in framing Kinley was elected to the Presidency. It was Riggs who carried a message from Dana to Platt in 1897 asking the New York Senator to withdraw his opposition to the nomination of Theodore Roosevelt as Assistant Sec-

retary of the Navy. Platt complied and Roosevelt got the position. Some years ago, in response to a question as to the difference between a political reporter and a political

correspondent. Riggs wrote: There was a vast difference between the two. The political reporter is he who begins at the foot of the ladder meetings, primaries, Assembly district. Senate district and Congress district conventions, city conventions, county conventions, State conventions and national conventions, and who builds his articles to his newspaper on his information of the situation in the State of nation, based upon circumstances and him editor of the Evening Journal—facts arising out of all of the aforesaid a position eminently suited to his

A political reporter and a political correspondent occupy in newspaper life the same relative positions as the cellar digger and the architect in the building trade world. Cellar digger is just as important in his sphere as architect. The most superb architects were the most superb cellar diggers. No man can be a successful political correspond-ent unless he has been a successful re-porter. Judges are made out of lawyers, generals and admirals out of cadets. Only the most ordinary of human virtues are necessary for the equipment of a suc-cessful political reporter and correspondent-cleanliness, sobriety, honesty and

Writing of Riggs as the dean of American political correspondents. Samuel G. Blythe said in the Saturday Evening Post:

He has made it his business to kno pose. Wherever men spoke the English language he was known as "Riggs—of THE SUN."

Reputation and success in newspaper tion from 1888—when Ambrose W. work demand the highest and most un-Lyman, then the Washington corre- selfish loyalty to one's paper. It must

One of Mr. Riggs's last great pieces New York State than any other politi- sand word history of national conCareers of the Chamberlins, of Whom "Jersey" Was the More Famous; of Riggs, Brisbane and Their Fellow Workers

and the McCoys. He went into the Ozarks to write up the Bald Kn beand he sent picturesque atories, in t unappropriated strip between Kins. and Texas, which knew no law from 1850, when it was taken from Me until 1890, when it became a part of the new State of Oklahoma.

without bringing in the material for a special article for the Sunday page "The Gold Diggings of Cape Hom.
"The Port of Missing Ships." The
History of Our Navy." "The Solry of
the American Merchant Marius." Story of the New England Whaters and "The History of the America Slave Trade." He now lives in retire-ment near Little Falls, N. Y. His son, Raymond S. Spears, the fiction write: was a Sun reporter from 1896 to 1900.

The Work of Ersemus D. Beach.

chiefly through the book reviews he rrote for THE SUN during many years. but he was a first class reporter too. THE SUN liked specialists, but no man could expect to stick to his specialty. When Gustav Kobbe went on The S. s. in March, 1880, it was for the general purpose of assisting William M. Laffan in dramatic criticism and Francis Bowman in musical criticism, but he first assignment was to go to Bellev in Hospital and investigate the reporter mistreatment of smallpox patients

who didn't understand what it was all about-and then he came out of his trance like a shot from a gun and seemed to know everything about sent him, with Christopher J. Fitze r-Brisbane was well liked. He was a handsome, athletic youth, interested ald and David Graham Phillips. to teport the Yale-Princeton football game Thanksgiving Day, 1890-that giorieus was there THE SUN offered him the

In March, 1888, when John L. Sullivan and Charley Mitchell went to Chantilly, in France, for their cele-Great in the annals of Vale fore

And

he accepted.

entions which appeared in THE SUN

Think of the kids, Charley, the dear held in a band, a linen fillet, the

conscientious attention to the technique of the fray:

A detailed report of each of the thirty-nine rounds taken by me shows that out of more than a hundred wild rushes made by Sullivan, and of which any one would have been followed by a knockout in Madison Square, not half a

A couple of years after the estabishment of THE EVENING SUN Brisbane was made its managing editor— a big job for a man of twenty-three ears. In 1890 he went to the World, where he became the editor of the trious exponent of that startling form of graphic art which demonstrates to the reader, without calling upon brain for undue effort how much taller than the Washington Monument would be New York's dally consumn tion of dill pickles if piled monument-

Brisbane from Mr. Pulitzer and made a position eminently suited to his talents, for here he was able to write as he wished in that clear, simple style which had endeared him to Tue

Brisbane's newspaper style goes directly back to the writing of William O. Bartlett. It has its terse, cutting qualities, the avoidance of all but the simplest words and the direct drive at the object to be attained. Brisbane, too, adopted the Dana principle that nothing was more valuable in editorial writing, for the attainment of a purpose than iteration and re-iteration. This was the plan that Dana slways followed in his political battles-incessant drumfire. bane uses it now as proprietor of the Washington Times, which he bought from Frank A. Munsey, the present

John R. Spears, Traveller and Writer.

John R. Spears was one of the big Sun men for fifteen years. He, like haps there was a spring in those Amos Cummings and Julian Ralph, of the good old timers!) But this Amos Cummings and Julian Raiph, of the good old timers!) But was brought up in the atmosphere of sprang from a fearful leak from a printing office as a small boy; but 1866, when he was 16 years old, he entered the Naval Academy at Annapolis and spent a couple of years as a naval cadet. His cruise clent spring reviver of the old Kentucks around the world in a training ship Colonel. old, he entered the Naval Academy at filled him with a love of the sea that never left him. His marine knowledge helped him and THE SUN, for which he wrote fine stories of the internaflower and the Galatea (1886) and the

Spears liked wild life on land too. and THE SUN sent him into the moun-

Spears was a hard worker. They said of him in THE SUN office that he

never went out on an assignment

Park Row knows Erasmus D. Beach

in 1912—the first history of its kind ever written. Mr. Riggs also contributed many articles to the editorial page.
Arthur Brisbane when he became a Bun reporter in 1882 was the youngest reporter the Sun had ever hired; he went to work on his eighteenth birthday. He had been intensively educated in America and abroad. In his first three or four months he was a puzzle to his superiors, his colleagues, and "He sat around," said one of his oldier that every good Sun man is. contemporary reporters, "like a fellow

Mr. Beach was a clever all round writer and reporter, with a leaning toward the purely literary side o fondness for sports, but THE Sty was the time of Heffelfinger and Po-McClung and Kins. Beach wrote an introduction which Mr. Dana classes as Homeric. Here is a bit of it

within a few minutes this man has carried the ball over the Princeton goal tine. He runs like a deer, has the stability of footing as one of the pyrimids and is absolutely cool in the most frightfully exciting circumstances.

A curious figure is McClung. He has just finished a run of twenty yards with all Princeton shoving against him s steaming like a poteof porridge chewing gum. His vigorously working profile is clearly outlined against the descending sun. How dirty he is: He

He pants as a man who has run knock the ear off him and knock it off He droops slightly for a moment's se Not but what the correspondent paid glare of battle, the gum estebliz conscientious attention to the technique of the fray:

hands on knees, eyes suiting glare of battle, the gum estebliz between his grinders. A tab on one his ears signifies a severe in some in organ, an injury received in some pre-vious match from an opposition has heel, or from a slide over the rough earth with half a dozen of the even seated upon him. He has a little, so featured face, squirrellike, with man nose and eyes set near toget Brief dental gleams illuminate countenance in his moments of se

joyfulness. Dana liked Beach's introduction 'cause the reader need not be a footb fan to enjoy it. For the technic the game he who wished to follow plays could find all that he wanted the stories of Fitzgerald and Phillip-

In connection with Beach's liter accomplishment there is a tradi that another Sun reporter of the report one of the great games Princeton, and although entirely acquainted with punts and tax came back with a story comple fine points of football in a few ho

A Veteran of the Ship News A Sun man who has been a ory of man goeth back only w long pull is Samuel A. Wood, wi been THE SUN's ship news man more than thirty-five years. He good example, too, of The Sun man's anonymity, for although he was originator of the rhymed news : and his little run in lyrics have the admiration of American newsp men for more than a generation

Wood as the author of them Although a first class general porter, Wood has stuck closely to two favorite topics, the ships and the weather. He made weather news able with such bits as this:

persons beyond Park Row have keep

The sun has crossed the line, and the weather may be vernal; that no more cyclones come, like vester dome supernal, and weather that s be divine might be declared infe

The mercury fell down the tube to point below the freezing, and spring herself might be excused for shiver a and sneezing. The wind, a brisk north easter, howled, the sky was dark at solemn, and chills chased one another up and down the spinal column. Oh bail, diphtherial mildness, hall as rain, and snow-and blossom the spring has really come, and ma-

to tell of the feuds of the Hatfields | To be continued in next Sunday's SUN.

